FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE of AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REPLACEMENT of the NORTH UTICA COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AMBULANCE BUILDING

To the Residents of the Village of North Utica, the Utica Community Fire Protection District, and Interested Citizens of LaSalle County, Illinois:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers, Inc. (CTE) is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the Village of North Utica's ambulance building in LaSalle County. The EA is currently in draft form and is available for your review. If no substantive comments are received following agency and public review, the draft EA will be considered the final EA and no additional information will be incorporated prior to approval of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The draft EA addresses a number of topics including the reasonable and feasible alternatives under consideration, environmental impacts of the alternative courses of action, and mitigation measures for any substantial impacts identified.

An F3 category tornado, which occurred on 20 April 2004, severely damaged the Utica Community Fire Protection District (UCFPD) ambulance building. The damage incurred was greater than 50 percent of the value of the structure, and the building was not safe and required demolition. The UCFPD is proposing to replace the ambulance facility with an Emergency Services Facility combining fire suppression and emergency ambulance services at a new location on Illinois Route 178 immediately south of US Route 6; UCFPD has applied for funding for this restoration from FEMA.

The draft EA indicates that there are significant adverse impacts from the No-Action Alternative. The No-Action Alternative would result in the UCFPD continuing to provide emergency services from the existing fire station facility located in the 500-year flood plain where the facility is physically and functionally inadequate in size to provide efficient and necessary emergency and safety services.

The draft EA indicates that there are no significant adverse impacts from the Relocate and Provide Improved Satellite Facility (Preferred) alternative. This alternative would consolidate the fire suppression and emergency medical services into a one-story, with mezzanine, structure accommodating five long bays for the fire fighting apparatus; two shorter bays for ambulances; a hose tower, offices, meeting room, watch/radio communications (dispatch) room, lounge, kitchen facilities, bathrooms, and equipment/supply storage areas. It is anticipated that response to emergency calls will result in the use of fire vehicle and ambulance sirens approximately 40 times per month.

It is important that we receive your comments on the draft EA to assure that we have addressed the specific issues and concerns that the residents of the UCFPD, the Village of North Utica and LaSalle County believe are important. Information repositories have been set up at the following locations during their regular posted business hours for you to come in and review the draft EA:

Village of North Utica
Temporary Village Hall
142 Mill Street
Utica, IL 61373

Village of Utica Public Library
Mill and Grove Streets
Utica, IL 61373

In addition, the draft EA document and a draft of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at: **http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm**

Written comments on the draft EA should be sent either by mail, fax, or e-mail to the following address:

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Federal Emergency Management Agency
Attention: Ms Jeanne Millin
Regional Environmental Officer
536 South Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60605

Fax: 312.408.5551
e-mail: Jeanne.Millin@dhs.gov

Comments need to be received by (**Monday, July 11, 2005**).
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If no substantive comments are received the draft EA will become the final EA and this Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice prior to approval of the FONSI. We appreciate your interest in this process and look forward to receiving your comments on the draft EA.